

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

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INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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TAGS: PFOR PINS IT CI

SUBJECT: CHILEAN DC PRESIDENT'S INTERVIEW WITH ITALIAN
PERIODICAL

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN INTERVIEW WITH ITALIAN PERIODICAL, CHILEAN DC PRESIDENT AYLWIN ASSERTED ALLENDE COULD HAVE AVOIDED COUP IF HE HAD CHANGED HIS POLITICAL LINE; HE DENIED DC INVOLVEMENT IN COUP. HE REMARKED MILITARY HAD ACTED FOR WELFARE AND UNITY OF COUNTRY, BUT WARNED THAT EXTREME RIGHTIST ELEMENTS WERE TRYING TO EXPLOIT SITUATION AND THAT JUNTA WOULD BE CALLED QUICKLY TO ACCOUNT IF SOME OF ITS SUPPORTERS INTERFERED WITH SOCIAL ORDER. HE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM RE CHILE'S FUTURE, DENIED THAT DC HAD POLITICAL AGREEMENT WITH JUNTA, BUT SAID DC TECHNICIANS SHOULD NOT SHIRK DUTY TO HELP PUT COUNTRY BACK ON ITS FEET. HE EXPRESSED VIEW CHILE WOULD RETURN TO NORMAL IN A COUPLE OF YEARS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 25 ITALIAN WIRE SERVICE ANSA CARRIED SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW (PRESUMABLY IN CHILE) WITH CHILEAN DC PRESIDENT PATRICIO AYLWIN BY ITALIAN WEEKLY "GENTE".

3. AYLWIN AFFIRMED THAT CHILEAN COUP COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF PRESIDENT ALLENDE HAD "RECTIFIED HIS POLITICAL LINE", AS ALLENDE HAD BEEN ASKED TO DO. AYLWIN STATED THAT COUP WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT RPT NOT ONLY SOLUTION TO DIFFICULT SITUATION WHICH HAD BEEN

CREATED IN COUNTRY, AND FOR THIS REASON "WE DID NOT RPT NOT APPROVE COUP, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTOOD ITS CAUSE." ACCORDING AYLWIN, ARMED FORCES HAD INTERVENED FOR "UNITY AND WELFARE" OF CHILE, AND NOT RPT NOT TO INSTALL "MILITARY TYRANNY, OF FACIST TYPE." ASKED ABOUT THE HARSHNESS WITH WHICH MILITARY HAD CARRIED OUT COUP, AYLWIN REMARKED THAT IT SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT THE ARMY WAS FACED WITH A "REAL PARALLEL ARMY WITH GROUPS OF SNIPERS AND COMMANDOS OF GUERILLA TYPE."

4. AYLWIN SAID THAT POLITICAL PARTIES WERE LIVING IN A "STATE OF SIEGE" WITH PARLIAMENT CLOSED. SPEAKING OF SUPPRESSION OF MARXIST PARTIES, AYLWIN SAID THAT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS BELIEVED THAT "IDEAS CANNOT BE SUPPRESSED BY GOVERNMENT DECREE." "WE DO NOT KNOW", HE CONTINUED, "HOW THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT WILL ORIENT ITSELF." HE NOTED THAT THERE ARE CERTAINLY DANGERS SINCE "SOME TENDENCIES OF EXTREME ECONOMIC AND PLITICAL RIGHT ARE EXPLOITING SITUATION, AND COULD UTILIZE PRESENT STATE OF EMERGENCY TO TURN BACK COURSE OF HISTORY AND DRIVE US INTO DICTATORSHIP AND REACTION."

5. ACCORDING AYLWIN, THE JUNTA WILL BE CALLED IMMEDIATELY TO ACCOUNT SHOULD SOME OF ITS SUPPORTERS, "TIED TO WELL-KNOWN ECONOMIC INTERESTS", INTERFERE NEGATIVELY IN "SOCIAL ORDER" OF COUNTRY. HE ASSERTED THAT CHILEAN DC WILL TRY TO REACH PUBLIC OPINION DESPITE PRESS CENSORSHIP. HE CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT "WE ARE NOT PESSIMISTIC ABOUT OUR FUTURE AND WITH GOOD REASON. FOR EXAMPLE, JUNTA PRESIDENT GENERAL PINOCCHET VOTED FOR TOMIC AND DC IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF 1970".

6. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER DC WOULD COLLABORATE WITH NEW GOVERNMENT AYLWIN ANSWERED "FOR NOW WE ARE NOT RPT NOT THINKING OF A POLITICAL AGREEMENT, BUT WE ARE AWARE THAT THIS IS A PHASE OF RECONSTRUCTION AND EMERGENCY." AYLWIN SAID THAT IN VIEW OF EMERGENCY DC HAD CONSIDERED IMPORTANCE OF "ARRAY OF TECHNICIANS AVAILABLE TO DC", AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THESE TECHNICIANS SHOULD "NOT RPT NOT SHIRK DUTY TO PUT INSTITUTIONS AND ECONOMY BACK ON THEIR FEET". ASKED FOR A PREDICTION OF TIME, AYLWIN SAID "IN A COUPLE OF YEARS THE COUNTRY WILL AGAIN BE AS IT WAS".VOLPE

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